WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a friction member used for a vibration wave driving apparatus, comprising the steps of:

forming a molded member by compression molding of a fluoroplastic powder and an additive;

forming a sintered member by sintering said molded member;

forming a sheet by cutting said sintered member in the form of a sheet; and

removing a modified layer from a friction surface of said sheet, which is formed by cutting.

2. A method of manufacturing a friction member used for a vibration wave driving apparatus including a vibration member, a contact member which is brought into frictional contact with said vibration member and relatively moved by vibrations produced in said vibration member, and said friction member formed on one of friction portions of said vibration member and contact member, comprising the steps of:

forming a molded member by compression molding of a fluoroplastic powder and an additive;

forming a sintered member by sintering said molded member;

forming a sheet by cutting said sintered member in the form of a sheet; and

removing a modified layer from a friction surface of said sheet, which is formed by cutting.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein a convex surface of a curl produced in the step of forming said sheet is used as a friction surface.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein a convex surface of a curl produced in the step of forming said sheet is used as a friction surface.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein a powder or fiber is used as said additive.

6. A method according to claim 2, wherein a powder or fiber is used as said additive.

7. A method of manufacturing a friction member used for a vibration wave driving apparatus, comprising the steps of:

forming a molded member by compression molding of a fluoroplastic powder and fiber material; and

sintering said molded member,

wherein said fiber material is aligned substantially perpendicular to a friction contact surface.

8. A method of manufacturing a friction member used for a vibration wave driving apparatus including a vibration member, a contact member which is brought into frictional contact with said vibration member and relatively moved by vibrations produced in said vibration member, and said friction member formed on one of friction portions of said vibration member and contact member, comprising the steps of:

forming a molded member by compression molding of a fluoroplastic powder and fiber material; and

sintering said molded member,

wherein said fiber material is aligned substantially perpendicular to a friction contact surface.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein said fiber material has a specific gravity of not less than 80% of a theoretical specific gravity of said friction member.

10. A method according to claim 8, wherein said fiber material has a specific gravity of not less than 80% of a theoretical specific gravity of said friction member.

11. A method according to claim 7, wherein said fiber material is carbon fiber having a length of 50 to 350 μm.

12. A method according to claim 8, wherein said fiber material is carbon fiber having a length of 50 to 350 μm.

13. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

forming a sheet by cutting a sintered member in the form of a sheet; and

forming said sheet into a predetermined shape by a press.

14. A method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

forming a sheet by cutting a sintered member in the form of a sheet; and

forming said sheet into a predetermined shape by a press.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein said sintered member is cylindrical or columnar.

16. A method according to claim 14, wherein said sintered member is cylindrical or columnar.